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Nicolas-Arthur Rimbaud was born October 20, 1854, in the small French town of Charleville. His father, an army captain, abandoned the family when he was six. By the age of thirteen, he had already won several prizes for his writing and was adept at composing verse in Latin. His teacher and mentor Georges Izambard nurtured his interest in literature, despite his mothers disapproval. Rimbaud began writing prolifically in 1870. The French town, where his school shut down during the Franco-Prussian War, and he attempted to run away from Charleville twice but failing for lack of money. He wrote to the poet Paul Verlaine, who invited him to live in Paris with him and his new wife. Though Rimbaud moved out soon after, as a result of his harsh manners, he and Verlaine became lovers. Shortly after the birth of his son, Verlaine left his family to live with Rimbaud. During their affair, which lasted nearly two years, they associated with the Paris literary and traveled to Belgium and England. While in Brussels in 1873, a drunk Verlaine shot Rimbaud in the hand. Verlaine was imprisoned, and Rimbaud returned to Charleville, where he wrote a large portion of *Un Saison en Enfer* (A Season in Hell). The book was published in 1873 in Brussels, but the majority of the copies sat in the printers basement until 1901 because Rimbaud could not pay the bill. Rimbaud wrote all of his poetry in a span of about five years, concluding around 1875. His only writing after 1875 survives in documents and letters. In his correspondence with family and friends, Rimbaud indicated that he spent his adulthood in a constant struggle for financial success. He spent the final twenty years of his life working abroad, and he took jobs in African towns and in the United States. Rimbaud traveled to Africa, where he worked for a French colonial agent, and he traveled to the United States, where he worked for a French colonial agent. Rimbaud died in Charleville on October 20, 1854, Charleville, France, November 10, 1891, Marseille) was a French poet and adventurer who won renown in the Symbolist movement and markedly influenced modern poetry. Rimbaud grew up at Charleville in the Ardennes region of northeastern France. He was the second son of an army captain and a local farmers daughter. The father spent little time with the family and eventually abandoned the children to the sole care of their mother, a strong-willed, bigoted woman who pinned all her ambitions on her younger son, Arthur. Outwardly pious and obedient, he was a child prodigy and a model pupil who astonished the teachers at the Collège de Charleville by his brilliance in all subjects, especially literature. Rimbaud was a voracious reader who soon familiarized himself with the major French writers of both the past and present. He had a particular talent for Latin verse, and in August 1870 he won the first prize for a Latin poem at the Concours Académique. (His first published poem had appeared in January 1870 in *La Revue pour Tous*.) Rimbaud seemed obsessed with poetry, spending hours juggling with rhyme. This firm grounding in the craft of versification gave him a complete, even arrogant confidence and an ambition to be acknowledged by the currently fashionable Parnassian poets, of whom he was soon producing virtuoso pastiches. In his 16th year Rimbaud found his own distinctive voice in poems whose sentiments swing between two extremes: revolt against a repressive hometown environment, and a passionate desire for freedom and adventure. All of the unhappy adolescents loathing and longing are in these poems, which are already remarkable works. 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and may have briefly joined the Paris Commune of 1871, which he portrayed in his poem, L'Orgie parisienne ou Paris se repeuple (The Parisian Orgy or Paris Repopulates). Shortly afterward, he became an anarchist, started drinking, and amused himself by shocking the local bourgeois with his shabby dress and long hair. At the same time, he wrote to Izambard and Paul Dmeny about his method for attaining poetical transcendence or visionary power through a "long, immense and rational derangement of all the senses" (Les lettres du Voyant). Rimbaud sent the eminent French poet Paul Verlaine a letter containing several samples of his work. Rimbaud returned to Paris on Verlaine's invitation in late September 1871, residing briefly in Verlaine's home. Verlaine promptly became infatuated with the sullen, blue-eyed, precociously brilliant adolescent. They became lovers and led a dissolute, vagabond-like life rocked by absinthe and hashish. They scandalized the Parisian literary elite by their outrageous behavior, and for many years Rimbaud was as famous for his debauchery as he was for his poetry. Throughout this period, he continued to write strikingly visionary, modern verses, the most notable of which is most likely the poem "Le Bateau ivre," considered by many to be Rimbaud's finest poem in his surreal, visionary style. The poem begins as follows:As I was floating down unconcerned RiversI no longer felt myself steered by the haulers:Gaudy Redskins had taken them for targetsNailing them naked to coloured stakes.I cared nothing for all my crews,Carrying Flemish wheat or English cottons.When, along with my haulers those uproars were done withThe Rivers let me sail downstream where I pleased.Comme je descendais des Fleuves impossibles.Je ne me sentis plus guid par les haleurs:Des Peaux-Rouges criards les avaient pris pour ciblesLes ayant clous nus aux poteaux de couleurs.J'tais insoucieux de tous les quipages,Porteur de bls flamands ou de cotons anglais.Quand avec mes haleurs ont fini ces tapagesLes Fleuves m'ont laiss descendre o je voulais.Rimbaud's and Verlaine's stormy homosexual relationship took them to London in 1872, after Verlaine left his wife and infant son. In July 1873, Rimbaud, feeling increasingly guilty and fearing Verlaine's rages, committed himself to flee to Paris. Infuriated, Verlaine shot Rimbaud, one of the two shots striking him in the left wrist. Rimbaud considered the wound superficial, at first not pressing charges against Verlaine. After this violent attack Verlaine and his mother accompanied Rimbaud to a Brussels train station, where "Verlaine behaved as if he were mad," and Rimbaud had him arrested. Rimbaud eventually withdrew the complaint, but the judge sentenced Verlaine to two years in prison. Rimbaud returned home to Charleville and completed his Une Saison en Enfer (A Season in Hell), a lengthy prose-poem inspired by his experiences, and widely regarded both as one of the pioneering instances of modern Symbolism and a description of his life with Verlaine, whom he called his "pitoyable frre" ("pitiful brother"). In 1874, he returned to London with the poet Germain Nouveau and assembled his controversial Illuminations, which includes the first two French poems in free verse.Later life (1875-1891)Rimbaud and Verlaine met for the last time in March 1875, in Stuttgart, Germany, after Verlaine's release from prison and his conversion to devout Catholicism. By then Rimbaud had given up writing and decided on a steady, working life; some speculate he was feeling contrition over his former wild living, while others suggest he sought to become rich and independent to afford living one day as a carefree poet and man of letters. He continued to travel extensively in Europe, mostly on foot. In the summer of 1876, he enlisted as a soldier in the Dutch Army to travel free of charge to Indonesia where he promptly deserted, returning to France by ship. He traveled to Cyprus and in 1880, finally settled in Aden as a main employee in the Bardey agency. In 1884, he quit the job at Bardey's and became a merchant on his own in Harar, Ethiopia. He made a small fortune as a gun-runner. Rimbaud developed right knee synovitis which degenerated into a carcinoma, and the state of his health forced him to return to France on May 9, 1891, where his leg was amputated on May 27. Rimbaud died in Marseille on November 10, 1891, at age 37.WorksPosiesLe bateau ivre (1871)Une Saison en Enfer (1873)Illuminations (1874)LettresEnglish translations ReferencesISBN links support NWE through referral feesForestier, Louis (ed.). uvres compltes, correspondance, d'Arthur Rimbaud. 1998. ISBN 2110810939.Hackett, Cecil Arthur. Rimbaud: A Critical Introduction. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521229766.Ivry, Benjamin. 1998. Arthur Rimbaud. Bath, Somerset: Absolute Press. ISBN 1899791558.Nicholl, Charles. 1999. Somebody Else: Arthur Rimbaud in Africa 1880-91. University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0226580296.Rickword, Edgell. 1971. Rimbaud: The Boy and the Poet. 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